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Lixus rubellus Randall.

About three years ago a dam was built across a little brook in Tyngsboro, Mass., draining a long stretch of meadow land into the Merrimack River, to create a supply of water for mechanical uses. An area of about fifteen acres was thus overflowed. During the past summer I observed sheets of the purple bloom of some plant, then unknown to me, growing above the surface of this water, and one genial day in the middle of last September, as my brother and I were paddling slowly up the pond, examining the floating lily pads, with their very numerous population of *Galeruca sagittariae*, young and adult, our boat was directed towards the water weed, whose flowers had attracted our attention, when we began to find the subjects of this notice, numerous pale brown beetles with prolonged and deeply notched apices, clinging to the thick spikes or flower heads, sometimes two upon a single head, but usually singly, and often upon the floating leaves and partly submerged. Nearly all of the three dozen specimens obtained seemed quite mature, the few exceptions being soft and a little paler than the others. They made little or no effort to escape, perhaps occasionally shrinking back a little, when towards the most distant side of the spike, on the approach of the hand. In one or two instances an individual was seen to fly a short distance, one alighting on our boat.

At a subsequent visit, after the pond had been once covered with a thin sheet of ice, which had afterwards melted, a single specimen was found, still clinging to a blackened flower head lifted slightly above the water. And I would say here, for the benefit of those unfamiliar, as I was, with the *Polygo-*

num amphibium, for such the plant proved to be, that the pinkish flowers grow in a dense head, from half an inch to two inches long, barely rising on tolerably stout stems above the surface of the water, where the oblong leaves float like lily pads.

One naturally infers that the larvæ infest the submerged stems, the mature beetles leaving the water, like so many other aquatic insects. The larvæ of those European species, of whose habits I have seen any notice, live in the stems and roots of plants. I have never collected any other of our species, and know nothing of their natural history. The habits of *Lixus rubellus*, as mentioned herein, including its late appearance, must account, I suppose, for the long disappearance from our knowledge of a species which is probably really very common in its peculiar home. The description of Randall is quite characteristic, and, so far as I am acquainted with our other species, this is very easily distinguished. *Frederick Blanchard.*

Lowell, Mass., Feb. 1, 1876.

On some Coleoptera from Florida.

Hydroporus exiguus Aubé, which appears in Harold & Gemminger's Catalogue as *Anodochilus* (Babington) *exiguus*, with *A. maculatus* Bab. as synonym, was unknown to Leconte in his paper on North American Hydroporns (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., 1855). In Leconte's list it appears as doubtfully belonging to the North American fauna, and Crotch omitted it entirely in his Revision of the Dytiscidae and in his Check List. In the beginning of May, 1875, this species was recovered by Mr. H. G. Hubbard and myself, in the upper St. John River, south of Lake Harney, several specimens having been found. The characters given by Leconte, in his table (l. c.), are sufficient to recognize this very remarkable species.

Hydnocera aegra Newm., distinct by its uniform red color, occurs in several parts of Florida, although very rare. It is to be found by sweeping the swampy meadows in the pine wood lands, from March to June; *Tennopsophus bimaculatus* was found always in company with it.

Pachybrachys limbatus Newm. [*Cryptocephalus limbatus*